

Aging and In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (Area 3)  
2927 Lake Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

#### HEA 1391 Comment:

Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc encourages the funding of Indiana's Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) to allow for capacity building and development of a No Wrong Door (NWD) System. Often seniors, disabled individuals and their caregivers are left on their own to navigate confusing medical and long term services and supports systems (LTSS). The ADRC system offers unbiased information, referral, counseling, and assessment to these individuals so that they can make informed decisions. Indiana has long been on the forefront of the ADRC movement nationally. As Indiana's population ages, the volume of contacts to ADRCs is increasing. There is a need to add capacity to the ADRCs to assist consumers in interfacing with the LTSS system. Building ADRC capacity through upgrading skills, training, public outreach, and streamlined access to public programs will also move Indiana forward in the development of a NWD system and provide Indiana's residents the assistance needed to access LTSS programs.

Family Caregivers have long been the backbone of long-term care in the United States. The support provided to caregivers through the National Family Caregiver program and other LTSS programming has allowed caregivers to continue to provide caregiving for a longer period of time than if they did not have the support available. In turn, care recipients have been able to stay in the community for a longer period of time. Costs for caring for an individual in the community are significantly lower than the cost of institutionalization. Many evidenced based programs (EBP) that focus on supporting caregivers in the community have been developed. Promoting the adoption of EBP throughout Indiana's aging network provides optimal assistance to caregivers, proven outcomes and a higher quality of life for caregivers and care recipients. Please consider a statewide approach to offering EBP to caregivers to better meet their need for community resources and help reduce their stress related to caregiving.